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## 27. MOLLUSCAN FAUNA AND ITS DISTRIBUTION IN THE WILD ASS SANCTUARY

Very little is known about minor animal forms, namely plankton, annelids, arthropods, molluscs, in almost all the Protected Areas in the country. No work has been conducted on the molluscan fauna of the Wild Ass Sanctuary (WAS), hence an attempt was made to study their diversity in the Sanctuary. From the management point of view, these animals are considered minor for the protected area, but they are found in a variety of habitats, show many adaptations and play a key role in maintenance of the habitat, which they share with more conspicuous wildlife, to which the majority of management practices are addressed in our country.

The Wild Ass Sanctuary is spread mainly over the Little Rann of Kutch, Gujarat State. It is situated between 23° 10' and 23° 45' N, and between 70° 45' and 71° 45' E. The Little Rann (4,953.59 sq. km) is a vast saline desert, typically arid and one of its kind in the world. It experiences a maximum temperature of 44 °C and a minimum of 5 °C, and receives 125 to 400 mm of rainfall. Three major rivers from the east, Banas, Saraswati and Rupen, inundate the Little Rann, where sea water also enters, and make a huge wetland. The Little Rann is just above sea level, and the Wild Ass Sanctuary is spread over five districts namely Rajkot, Surendranagar, Mehsana, Banaskantha and Kutch.

The study was conducted from December 1,

1997 to July 15, 1998. The material was collected in the waterbodies, muddy areas, creeks and a variety of habitats. The molluscs were narcotised by magnesium sulphate before preservation in 4% formaline or 70% alcohol. The samples were labeled and identified in the laboratory using standard references such as Hornell (1951), Kundu (1965), Menon *et al.* (1961) and Tonapi (1980). The Zoological Survey of India confirmed the identifications.

12 species (Table 1) representing 12 mollusc families were collected and identified; out of these 7 species belonged to 7 freshwater families and 5 to 5 brackish water families.

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S.M. DAVE, V.J. BHUVA  
*Dept. of Biosciences, Saurashtra University,  
Rajkot 360 005, Gujarat, India.*

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

TABLE I  
CHECKLIST OF MOLLUSCAN FAUNA AND ITS DISTRIBUTION IN THE WILD ASS SANCTUARY

S. No.	Species/Family	Distribution	Status
1	<i>Thiara (Melanoides) tuberculata</i> (Thiaridae)	Khareshwar Kund (Narali), Juni Anjiyasar gam talav, Chikhali gam talav.	C
2	<i>Ariophanta bajadera</i> (Ariophantidae)	Raghu ki gam talav, Boru talav (Rann kathe - near Khod), Mardak bet, Kuda gam talav, Naranpura gam talav, Chikhali gam talav, Nimaknagar gam talav, Garamadi Check Dam No. 1, Vajiyasar gam talav, Wasraj Solanki talav, (Wasaraj Solanki bet, slightly saline water), Juni Anjiyasar gam talav, Talav near Shiyal tekari (Amarapar), Sahebrana bet, Behal talav (Kajarada), Masali gam talav, Kalyanpura-Santalpur gam talav, Pipli gam talav.	C
3.	<i>Lymnaea (Pseudosuccinea) luteola</i> (Lymnaeidae)	Kalyanpura-Santalpur gam talav, Machchhu river (Near Maliya), Koparani Sim talav, Bandhparo talav (Visnagar), Mandraki sim talav.	C
4.	<i>Bellamya dissimilis</i> (Viviparidae)	Vajiyasar gam talav, Naranpura gam talav, Wasraj Solanki bet, Kali talav, Ranisar gam talav, Patasar talav (Khod), Bhanguria bet, Mardak bet, Sahebrana bet, Near Surajbari creek, Bhangarwa bet, Koridu talav (Navi Enjar), Chhanasara Dam (Chhanasara), Bhadari talav (Near Chikhali).	C
5.	<i>Zootecus insularis</i> (Subulinidae)	New Kuda gam talav, Shedwa bet, Mardak bet, Wasraj Solanki talav (bet), Jhilandhar bet, Juni Anjiyasar gam talav, Vajiyasar talav (Near Tundi tower), Pung bet, Khijadia bet, Jilkeshwar Kund (Jhilandhar bet), Jesra, Chhanasara Dam, Jagamal bet, Dhan bet, Shahensawali talav (Navi Anjiyasar), Nada bet, Kakindiya bet, Masali village Dhasi-1, Dugara village Dhasi, Bhangarawa bet, Thar (East from Gangasar talav-Palaswa), Boru village Dhasi-3, Masali village Dhasi-4, Naleshwar Temple (Jhilandhar bet), Rana bet, Gajetiya bet, Gaun bet, Ratadia bet, Sahebrana bet, Garamadi Village Dhasi, Nanda bet, Keshmara bet, Handi bet, Koparani (Near Camp Site), Ikadia grass plot, Khijariya bet, Akoria bet.	C
6.	<i>Indoplanorbis exustus</i> (Planorbidae)	Vajiyasar gam talav, Kali talav, Nimaknagar gam talav, Raghuki talav, Bodu talav (Khod), Patasar talav (Khod), Kuda gam talav, Tundi talav, Wasraj Solanki talav (Wasraj Solanki bet), Jilkeshwar Kund, (Jhilandhar bet), Dungariala talav (Vejalpar), Khijadia bet, Kumbharia gam talav, Sudamani talav (Rann kathe - Venasar), Koridu talav	C

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

TABLE 1 (CONTD.)  
CHECKLIST OF MOLLUSCAN FAUNA AND ITS DISTRIBUTION IN THE WILD ASS SANCTUARY

S. No.	Species/Family	Distribution	Status
		(Nava Enjar), Lakhiar talav (Tikar), Mandraki sim talav, Mandraki gam talav, Venasar gam talav, Sukhpar Dam (Sukhpar), Varahi talav (Pung bet), Ajitgadh gam talav, Patasar talav (Khod), Chikhali gam talav, Behal talav (Rann-kathe- Kajarada), Savalasari talav (Near Vavania), Juni Anjiyasar gam talav, Navi Anjiyasar gam talav, Chovishi talav (Near Nanda), Bhagasar talav (Nava Ghatila), Pipli gam talav.	
7	<i>Lamellidens</i> sp. (Unionidae)	Jadeshar talav (Juna Ghatila).	R
8	<i>Cerithidea</i> ( <i>Cerithideopsilla</i> ) <i>cingulata</i> (Potamididae)	Nimaknagar, Kakindia bet, Nada bet, Bhanguria bet, Bandarvalo (Near Vavania), Shedwa bet, Tundi (near Kuda)	C
9	<i>Natica tigrina</i> (Naticidae)	Mardak bet.	R
10	<i>Thais lacera</i> (Muricidae)	Nimaknagar, Ikadia bet, Mardak bet, Andheriwan bet, Koparani Dhasi, Near Kuda.	C
11	<i>Anadara antiquata</i> (Arcidae)	Mardak bet, Surajbari creek, Nimaknagar.	C
12	<i>Meretrix</i> sp. (Veneridae)	Nimaknagar, Surajbari creek.	C

Abbreviations: C = Common, R = Rare (but may be common in other areas).

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28. FIRST RECORD OF *BOSMINA TRIPURAE* KORÍNEK ET AL., 1999  
(CRUSTACEA: CLADOCERA: BOSMINIDAE) FROM ASSAM

During a routine survey of water bodies of Assam State Zoo and Botanical Garden, Guwahati, Assam (26.10° N, 92.49° E) in 1997-1998, I came across several females of *Bosmina tripurae*, a Bosminid cladoceran. The species was described as new to science from Tamil Nadu in India (Korínek et al., 1999). Based on the several females collected, a brief description of the

species is given.

1999. *Bosmina tripurae* Korínek et al., *Hydrobiologia*, 392: 241.

**Female:** Body size 0.45-0.64 mm in length, 0.16-0.24 mm in width. Shape almost oval. Head and eye large. Head with two frontal setae near rostrum. Antennules fused with rostrum, hardly reaching one-third the length of